



NAPLES FERTILIZER GARDEN CENTERS



Champions of Service
FREE DELIVERY

Collier: (239)-263-8858
Lee: (239)-992-0992
Fax: (239)-263-3930

www.naples-fertilizer.com

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Beautiful Lawn Program

Mowing

The correct manner of cutting the lawn is the single most important factor in lawn care. If this procedure is performed incorrectly, the lawn it will suffer, regardless of all other factors. Mowing correctly promotes a deep healthy root system, and makes the grass more resistant to weeds, insects, disease and drought. A deep root system allows the grass to process more nutrients, and reduces chemical leaching, as well as allowing quicker recovery from any subsequent insect or disease damage.

The mower should be calibrated to leave 3" of blade on the grass after the cut. If you perform cuts at this height you will promote deeper roots. If you perform cuts at 2" you will promote shallow roots. If you should happen to scalp the lawn, by cutting it below 1 1/2", you will then promote a declining root system. Always cut at 3 to 3 1/2" on the St. Augustine or Bahia lawns. Always use a sharp blade. The grass will heal quicker from the wound and be less susceptible to turf diseases. You should inspect the grass blades after cutting, if it appears frayed or torn; the blade needs to be sharpened.

Avoid cutting wet grass. This can promote turf diseases and stresses the blade of grass. Of course you may not be able to avoid this in the rainy season. However, it is a good point to keep in mind.

Don't bag your clippings. The return of the grass blades to the turf restores nutrients that you would normally haul away. This does not promote thatch. The exception to this is if the lawn is diseased. If you are cutting a diseased lawn, you should bag the clippings and sterilize the mower blades following your cutting. If Nutsedge is a problem, you may also bag your clippings to prevent reseeding of this weed.

The narrowest section of turf you can expect to prosper is about 16" in width. To attempt to maintain a narrower strip is a very labor intensive proposition.

Trivia: There are 564,536,500 blades of grass in an acre of healthy lawn.

Irrigation

The amount of water used by turf grass is determined by SUMMER rather than in the winter.

This is the opposite of most people's beliefs. This misconception is responsible for the "over-watering" promotion of winter diseases and weeds.

Only irrigate when the lawn shows slight wilt (the grass blades fold lengthwise and the grass looks blue gray. Apply 1" of irrigation (it does little to no good to water less than 3/4") each time, and only water in the early A.M hours. The turf grass is resistant to disease during its natural "dew period" and should only be watered at this time. Do not extend the natural "wet" dew period of the grass by watering in the late morning, afternoon or evening. If the turf grass covers an area that requires several zones to run for a lengthy time, break the zones up into different days.

The average homeowner in Southwest Florida, who waters their lawn every other day, puts 7 FEET of water on the grass more than is needed. A general rule on irrigation is given below, and will work if we are experiencing a normal amount of rainfall. The best rule is "water only as needed".

MONTH	AVG TEMP	AVG RAIN	MONTHLY 1" APPLICATIONS
JAN	63.5	1.64"	1-2
FEB	64.7	2.03"	1-2
MAR	68.5	3.06"	2
APRIL	73.3	2.03"	3-4
MAY	77.7	3.99"	4
JUNE	81.1	8.89"	3-4
JULY	82.5	8.90"	3-4
AUG	8.28	7.72"	4
SEPT	81.6	8.71"	3-4
OCT	76.4	4.37"	2-3
NOV	69.4	1.31"	3
DEC	64.8	1.30"	2

Shade areas may require even less irrigation, and these areas should be considered separately. These areas may use 1/3 to 1/2 of the amount of irrigation indicated. This is a reduction in the number of times applied, not the amount of water applied at each irrigation.

Trivia: An irrigation application of 1" of water, wets the soil to a depth of 12" in our soils. It takes 465 gallons of water to apply this much to 1000 sq. ft. or 2325 gallons.

Fertilization

In recent years several discoveries have been made relative to Collier & Lee County turf grass fertilizations. Most of these is the need for extra Potash, secondary is the benefits and regulations of quality Slow Release formulas and Nitrogen leaching into the water tables. The increase of Potash makes the turf more drought, disease, cold and wear tolerant and generally increases its overall health.

Southern turf grasses are not dark green by nature (except Bermuda). They are more yellow green. Making them dark green with extra Nitrogen fertilizers only causes them to be more susceptible to damage from insects and disease, less drought tolerant, increases the need for water and creates more maintenance to be performed as the high Nitrogen promotes growth.

	January	February	March	May	August	September	October	November	December
St. Augustine	14-0-14	PE	14-0-14	6-0-15	6-0-15	PE	14-0-14		21-0-0*
Bahia	14-0-14	PE	14-0-14	6-0-15	6-0-15	PE	14-0-14		21-0-0*

The revision to past fertilization applications and formulations is best described in the chart above. The 14-0-14 & 6-0-15 have been designed for Southwest Florida soils and offer high slow release nitrogen and potash to ensure longer lasting superior results.

The Spring and Fall applications require higher nitrogen thus 14-0-14 is used while in the summer months we reduce the nitrogen and increase the iron with 6-0-15 Ultra (containing 6% iron).

The (*) on the 21-0-0 indicates the "options" of this application to provide winter "green-up," or as preclusion to winter turf grass herbicide applications.

Turfgrass

St. Augustine Lawns

Weed Type

Broadleaf Weeds

Grassy Weeds

Nutsedge

Bahia Lawns

Broadleaf Weeds

Iron may applied (liquid or granule) year-round for a darker green color, without the unwanted blade growth. It should be noted that an iron rich plant will resist disease better than an iron deficient one. We highly recommend the use of Ionate when choosing an Iron source. Never apply a fertilizer to a turfgrass when the blades are wet. Always lightly water in the granules after application. Do not apply high Nitrogen fertilizer to a lawn that is being treated for disease.

Most turfgrass diseases are aggravated or promoted by excessive nitrogen. If color is required, you would be better off applying the Ionate Iron Supplement.

Do not apply a fertilizer to a lawn that is suffering from drought. You should irrigate the lawn before and then again lightly after the application of fertilizers.

Weeds

About 60% of all lawn problems involve weeds. Lawns that have excessive weeds usually have thin turf. The weeds are present because the lawn is thin and not vice versa.

Simply correct the reason why the grass is thin and then use the correct weed killer. Not all weed killers can be used on all types of weeds or on the specific type of lawn you may maintaining. I have tried to provide a summary of common weed control chemicals and the weed types they address,

as well as the type of turfgrass they are commonly applied on. This is the only a generalization. Be sure to correctly identify the weed and turf type and always follow the instructions provided on the chemical label.

Crabgrass, Goosegrass, Crow-footgrass, Annual Bluegrass, and the Spurge can be Pre-Emergence (PE) treated with Treflan. The timely application of pre-emergence herbicides is the best approach to weed control. These are applied before the weed seed germinates. It is the only way to control the nasty Blanket Crabgrass. They are very safe and should be applied to the entire lawn,

Chemical

Atrazine

Basagran

Triamine/Weedout

and in many cases can be applied to bedding plants as well.

The first application of the (PE) Pre-Emergence herbicide should be applied in January with the second application applied around the end of February, a fall application in September should also be performed. It is best not to try and control weeds in the lawn during the summer months. The hot temperature and

Seasonal rains will work against you and the turfgrass will often become damaged.

The absolute best thing to do when addressing weeds is to bring a sample of them to Naples Fertilizer & Garden Center for identification and treatment recommendations.

Only treat the weeds, not the entire yard. Wait 2 to 3 weeks for results before making a second application. Weed killers for warm season (this area) grasses work slowly, so be careful and always follow the product's label directions carefully.

The most common reason that properties have weeds is because the grass is mowed too short and then watered too much. Try to remember the watering schedule I discussed earlier.

Insects

There is a plethora of insects active in any lawn, fortunately only a few of them are actually turf destroying. Mole crickets and Lawn caterpillars (the armyworms and Webworms) are the primary damaging pests of Bahia. The Southern Chinch Bug, Lawn caterpillars and sometimes White Grubs are the most significant insect pest of the St. Augustine grasses.

There is no such thing as an invisible insect. If you suspect insect activity, get down on the lawn and inspect it. If you can't see the insects by simply parting the blades of grass and searching, try a solution of 1 ½ oz. of lemon dish soap in 2 gallons of water and drench a 4 sq. ft. area. Try this in several areas. If the insects are present, they will come to the surface in the following 3-5 minutes, search the blades again. You may see a lot of insects following the drench; look for the turf destroying ones mentioned earlier.

If you're not sure, don't want to look, and don't care to perform the drenching dig up a 1'x1'x2" square of the damaged turf and bring it into Naples Fertilizer for diagnosis.

There isn't enough room here to detail the treatment of insects, for information on the correct chemicals to apply, when and how, stop in at Naples Fertilizer or call the Local Extension Service. \

Trivia: The damage threshold for Chinch Bugs is about 20-25 bugs per square foot. For Mole Crickets this about 2-3 bugs per square foot

Disease

This is the most complicated topic in relation to turfgrasses. To make it simple, I'll just summarize the general information you'll usually need.

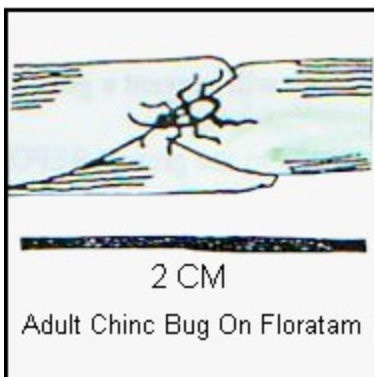
Diseases that commonly attack lawns are of two types: those that will attack the roots and those that attack the blades and stems. Those that attack the roots will require professional diagnosis (often lab testing) and treatment.

There's good news and bad news about those that attack the blades and stems. The bad news is that there are several types, all with every exotic name, all of which can devastate a lawn in a very short time. The good news is that they are all treated the same way, no matter what their name is. If the leaves are turning brown, and you've ruled out insect and have proper irrigation and cutting the grass correctly, think disease.

Most recently a breakthrough in chemicals has made available a granular systematic fungicide. This product can be safely used to control or eliminate most turf diseases and is safe, easy and effective. It should be noted that all the chemicals in the world will prove fruitless in controlling a turfgrass disease if the correct cultural practices are not followed. This is especially true of irrigation and cutting practices.

Summary

REMEMBER: Mow high, irrigate only as needed, and use your fertilizers and chemicals correctly. Seek professional advice if you are unsure of yourself.



Adult Chinc Bug On Floratam



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Please stop by one of our locations if you have any questions

Naples

Bonita

NAPLES FERTILIZER GARDEN CENTERS



- Fertilizers, sod, mulch soils, chemicals. Tools
- Trees, shrubs, Blooming plants
- Free delivery, no minimums
- Sound Horticultural advice

INSTALLING NEW SOD

Use the following steps to ensure your new lawn's success

1. Remove all causes of previous turfs decline. This may be a treatment of insects, disease or a change in cultural practices.
2. Remove any clumps of weed or dead grass that will prevent a good contact between the new grass and the soil.
3. Apply Organic Grow or New Lawn Starter to the ground BEFORE laying the sod.
4. If good contact between the new sod and the soul is not occurring, you should rent or borrow a sod roller and roll the new turf to ensure this contact.
5. If insects were a problem, treat the new sod with Granular Bug Blaster within 2-3 days of its installation.
6. Water the new sod (not the entire lawn if only a portion is being replaced) on the following schedule:

- 1st week ...water every morning
- 2nd week...water every other morning
- 3rd week...water every third morning
- 4th week...water every fourth morning
- 5th week...water every fifth morning
- 6th week...water every 6th morning
- 7th week...water as normal (IE: once per week)

Watering should be in applications of 1" of water and should ONLY occur during the dew period (5-9 am). By the way, this is true, even for your old lawn.

7. Three weeks after the sod has been down, apply the 14-0-14 Ultra Lawn Fertilizer to encourage deeper roots and a healthier lawn. Repeat every 90 days for the first year. This formula and schedule is also best for any old turfgrass.
8. Avoid cutting for as long as possible, and then only cut at 3 - 3 ½ (the correct height for your old lawn as well), and only if the blade is SHARP. There is no drawback to allowing the clippings to fall, unless you are having a weed or disease problem.
9. Avoid an application of Weed & Feed on the new sod for the first year. If you must treat for weeds you should spot spray as needed, in the right season.
10. If problems should occur to the new sod, call us AS SOON AS YOU NOTICE IT. If you wait for 2-3 months to call it to our attention, chances are we will be unable to help you correct it. Keep a careful eye on the new grass in the first two weeks as most insects will prey on the tender new grass before infesting existing areas.

If you have any questions about this sheet, your lawn or landscape, please contact us at 263-8858.

Thanks for your patronage and good luck with this endeavor.